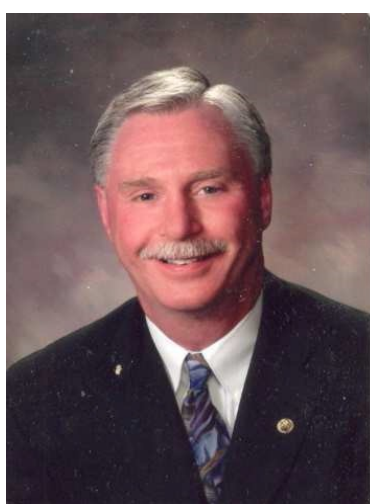




NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECTS



JAMIE PEACE, PSP MAJOR PROJECTS MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

Your Major Projects Board would like to announce to our membership a new way to make donations to our Major Project. The Major Project is now able to receive donations directly through credit cards. Your donation will be credited to you and to your Lodge's per capita. You will also be able to print a receipt for your personal records. As this is new to the New York Elks Major Projects, we are trying to model what other states and Grand Lodge have accomplished. State Major Project Chair Irene Pashley is constantly trying to "think outside the box" for new ways to increase donations for our Home Service Program. This includes www.igive.com, Schwanz products, and Amazon.com. The Major Project receives a percentage of all purchases made online from these sites.

Every so often I try to remind and educate our membership that your Major Projects Corporation is more than our Home Service Program as our Major Project.

On May 1, 1994, the Major Projects Corporation was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) corporation. Since then it has been authorized by the New York State Elks Association to receive and accept from the Elks National Foundation grant funds for charitable, benevolent, educational and other exempt purposes. Since that time there have been changes in the original purpose section of the corporation by-laws to include programs that are funded by the Elks National Foundation grants in addition to the Home Service Program.

The Major Projects Corporation Board instituted the following policy language to clarify the corporation purpose to include all 501 (c) (3) program funding provided by the Elks National Foundation while such funding is being accepted and supervised by the New York State Elks Major Projects Corporation. This language takes into consideration programs being added or deleted and includes temporary aid to victims of disasters.

The purpose of this corporation is to provide an entity to channel funds to the projects that are to be recipients of our contributions. It involves:

- ◆ Underwriting the expenses of the Home Service Program of the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State.
- ◆ Providing funds for educational purposes in the form of scholarships. The **Elks National Foundation** provides more than 4 million dollars in college scholarships annually, through its three scholarship programs:
- ◆ **Most Valuable Student Scholarships** – four year scholarships ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$12,500 per year for graduating high school seniors based on financial need, leadership and scholarship.
- ◆ **Legacy Awards** – \$1,000 a year for four years, merit based scholarships for children and grandchildren of Elks who are members in good standing.
- ◆ **Emergency Educational Grants** – One-year educational grants available to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks members.
- ◆ In addition to these Elks National Foundation scholarships, the New York State Elks Major Projects also award 145 scholarships yearly to the children of Elks

members. All applications must be processed through a local Elks lodge. Contact your high school guidance counselor or your local Elks lodge for more information.

- **Americanism** - By educating students about US History and helping them develop a sense of patriotism is another way Elks are helping schools. Each year the Elks sponsor an essay contest for students in fifth through eighth grades. The contest ends in March. This year's theme is "What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me." This contest gives students a chance to creatively express their patriotism and compete for awards.

- **Community Projects** – The Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program invests over \$8 million in Elks local communities through Lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs.

- **Drug Awareness** – The Elks Drug Awareness Program strives to teach all children and their parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States, the program relies on state, district and lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America's communities and youth, the program takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration.

- **Hoop Shoot** – Since its origin the Elks Hoop Shoot program has grown to include nearly three million participants annually, making it the largest co-educational sports program in the country. Boys and girls in age groups of 8-9; 10-11; and 12-13 attempt to sink free throws. Competitions begin in the fall with the local lodge contests, and winners may advance to district, state, and area regional competitions, and finally the National Championships in April.

- **Youth Activities** – Elks Lodges help students outside the classroom by supporting many other programs. Soccer Shoot is an excellent program to teach the correct techniques needed to excel at playing soccer. Junior Golf Program for young people with a desire to play golf. Many lodges may assist boys and girls by supporting Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H programs, Little League, Youth football, and other local youth programs. Many lodges sponsor Boy/Girl Scout troops, offering lodges as meeting places. The Dictionary Project is one of the newest programs supported by Elks lodges nationwide. The program's goals are to reach as many children as possible with educational materials to assist them in making the right decisions. Thousands of children benefit from the tireless efforts of our lodges and members when donating dictionaries to school children.

- **National Veterans Services** – Since 1917, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has demonstrated its compassion for veterans of our Armed Forces through a number of programs. This is why, since 1946, the Order has pledged that, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

There are 15 VA Medical Centers located throughout New York State. Many Elks members, through their local lodges or districts, host events for our veterans. Some of the events include: socials, concerts, Bingo games, movies, pig roasts, sporting events, just to name a few. Also, while visiting the VA Centers, the Elks not only entertain veterans, but also frequently provide much needed supplies and equipment to the hospitals as well as a wide range of smaller items for the veterans. Some districts offer Veteran Stand-downs that offer everything from clothing to medical and dental services. An Army of Hope Fund has been established that is dedicated to helping lodges that are undertaking a project to assist a veteran or family that costs more than the lodge can afford.

- *Empire State Elk* newspaper – the official publication of the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc.